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On the whole, we have been highly gratified with these Lectures. They are adapted to convey much instruction. And though the style has not the freedom and ease which we should have expected, if the author had been mainly conversant with English scholars, yet it is perspicuous and pure, and sometimes beautiful. Dr. Wiseman, as we have said, is a Catholic; and we add, so far as we discover his character and disposition from this work, a man of generous and liberal feelings. If he believes in the adage said to have been current in the church to which he belongs, that "ignorance is the mother of devotion," he has no fears, on the contrary, that science and learning can, on the whole, or in the end, be converted into weapons of hostility against the Christian faith; for thus far, the more searching they have become, the more have the fears of the timid believer subsided, and the conviction of the ingenuous inquirer been strengthened.

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7. — *Incidents of Travel in Egypt, Arabia Petræa, and the Holy Land.* By AN AMERICAN. In Two Volumes. New York; Harper & Brothers. 12mo.

THESE two volumes contain a journal of the author's tour, included within the years 1835 and 1836. From various allusions throughout the book, it may be gathered, that he had previously travelled over the continent of Europe, and visited all the usual objects of taste and curiosity. This portion of his wanderings has evidently been selected for publication, because it extends over a part of the ancient world not often trodden by Christian feet, and yet connected by a thousand interesting associations with Christian thought. Without being a profound classical scholar, the author shows himself to be a man of good education and good sense. Without being an antiquarian or an artist, he shows a just appreciation of the wondrous remains of ancient toil and skill, with which a large part of his course was thickly studded. But the distinguishing merit of his book, is the unaffected truth and liveliness of his descriptions and narratives. He makes his reader see, as he himself saw, the varied and interesting scenes amidst which he travelled. The appearance of the country, the manners of the people, their condition and moral character, are delineated with a graceful ease. We have a series of pictures, rapidly executed, but full of minute and characteristic traits, that show the hand of the sagacious observer. In point of style, these volumes have little in them that can be

objected to. They will sustain an advantageous comparison with the best travels of the day, and, in many important features, are decidedly superior to some of the most celebrated. They are wholly free from the poetical mystification and halo, which give such a vague and foggy aspect to the well-known work of M. de Lamartine. Our author does not allow the delusions of imagination to cheat him of truth and reality. He sets before us things as they are. The pastoral life of the wandering Arab has no charms sufficiently Arcadian to draw his mind away from the blessings of civilization. He tells us of the misery and degradation of the savage state, and opens our eyes, if they were not open before, to the absurdity of those visions of enthusiastic dreamers, who would have us believe that the state of nature, as they strangely miscall the wretched condition of the savage, is a state of primeval innocence and patriarchal simplicity. His language has an easy flow, and a pure English flavor. It reads like the pleasant talk of an intelligent conversationalist, who enchains our attention by an unstudied narrative of what he has seen and observed in foreign lands. Like the language of the talker, it is sometimes careless, and even ungrammatical; the sentences are, here and there, a little involved; and now and then we come upon a repetition of what we have met before. Considering the book as a work of art, there are certainly blemishes; but they are few in number, and not very important in character. In fact, they rather heighten the graphic force of the narrative, and give us a still stronger feeling of the truthfulness of the work.

The journal commences with the author's arrival at Alexandria, in Egypt. He visited the ruins of that ancient city, and then took passage up the Nile, to Cairo, in which city he had the honor of being presented to his Highness, the Pacha of Egypt. The description of the pyramids, the sphinxes, and the works of Egyptian art, are lively, though they have nothing new. The incidents of the journey up the Nile are interesting and admirably told. The following description of a storm on the Nile, will probably be a novelty to our readers;

"The wind was blowing down with a fury I have never seen surpassed in a gale at sea, bringing with it the light sands of the desert, and at times covering the river with a thick cloud which prevented my seeing across it. A clearing up for a moment showed a boat of the largest class, heavily laden, and coming down with astonishing velocity; it was like the flight of an enormous bird. She was under bare poles, but small portions of the sail had got loose, and the Arabs were out on the very ends of the long spars getting them in. One of the boatmen, with a rope under his arm, had plunged into the river, and with strong swimming reached the bank, where a hundred men ran to his assistance. Their united strength turned her bows

around, up stream, but nothing could stop her; stern foremost, she dragged the whole posse of Arabs to the bank, and broke away from them perfectly ungovernable; whirling around, her bows pitched into our fleet with a loud crash, tore away several of the boats, and carrying one off, fast locked as in a death-grasp, she resumed her headlong course down the river. They had gone but a few rods, when the stranger pitched her bows under and went down in a moment, bearing her helpless companion also to the bottom. It was the most exciting incident I had seen upon the river. The violence of the wind, the swift movement of the boat, the crash, the wild figures of the Arabs on shore and on board, one in a red dress almost on the top of the long spar, his turban loose and streaming in the wind, all formed a novel and most animating scene. I need scarcely say that no lives were lost, for an Arab, on the bosom of his beloved river, is as safe as in his mud cabin."

We pass over the remainder of this voyage, the description of Thebes, its stupendous temples and avenue of sphinxes, the tramp into the desert in pursuit of an oasis, and many other interesting matters, merely remarking that our traveller reached the cataracts of Upper Egypt, on the borders of Nubia, and that his record of the incidents, that befell him, is exceedingly lively and attractive. On his return to Cairo, he found the great yearly caravan of pilgrims for Mecca assembling, and the Sheik of Akaba was there, on a summons from the Pacha, to protect them through the desert, to his territory. After some negotiation with this distinguished personage, to settle an arrangement for safe conduct from Akaba to Hebron, including a visit to the wonderful city of Petra, he set off on his route to Suez, where he crossed the Red Sea, and immediately plunged into the wilderness of Sinai. His description of the ascent to the summit of the sacred mountain, and of the wild landscape opening on the eye from thence, is a favorable specimen of our author's uncommon skill in that style of composition. Having accomplished this ascent, one of the favorite objects of his journey, he entered upon the "great and terrible desert," which spread from the base of Sinai to the Promised Land. On his arrival at Akaba, he was attacked by a severe illness, but was able in a few days to commence the journey through the desert, having completed the arrangements, before discussed, with the Sheik. The route through the land of Edom, the visit to Petra, the description of the singular remains of that doomed and desolated city, must have an absorbing interest for every reader, who has the smallest curiosity to know the present state of those regions, which were the scenes of Scripture history, and prophetic denunciation. Like other travellers, our author found many things that seemed to him to show the literal fulfilment of the curses uttered by the Hebrew prophets. Without entering further into

the subject, we remark it as a little singular that Keith and others, who insist upon the exact fulfilment of the curse pronounced upon the land of Edom, that no one should "pass through it for ever," have confined themselves to the case of European travellers, forgetting that roaming tribes of Arabs, descendants of the ancient Edomites, have traversed it at will, at all times and in every direction.

Our traveller reached Hebron in safety, and was quartered by the governor upon a Jewish family. He gives us many entertaining and instructive traits of the Jewish population in that place. His journey in the Holy Land, from Hebron to Jerusalem, has less of novelty in it than the portion through which we have already followed him. But what Christian can read without emotion, descriptions of places for ever hallowed by their connexion with the life and sufferings of Jesus?

During his stay in the Holy Land, he visited every interesting spot, consecrated by events in early Christian history; and of all recent travellers to Palestine, we think he furnishes the best picture of the country, the best account of its moral and religious state, the best description of modes of life, and of the ceremonial rites practised by Christian pilgrims to the Holy Sepulchre.

We take leave of our entertaining countryman with regret. He has carried us through scenes and countries, which have an imperishable hold upon our imaginations and hearts; and we part from him, as from one who has freshened early and cherished associations, given new life to many solemn and affecting passages of Scripture history, and an impressive view of the ruin and degradation to which those venerable regions have been reduced.

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8. — *Inaugural Address*, by HENRY RUFFNER, President of Washington College, Va. Delivered on the 22d of February, 1837. Lexington; C. C. Baldwin. 12mo. pp. 24.

WASHINGTON College is situated in Lexington, Rockbridge county, about fourteen miles from the Natural Bridge, in Virginia. It enjoys the enviable distinction of having been the object of General Washington's patronage; and the Society of Cincinnati have given a title to one of the professorships. It is placed in the midst of the most magnificent scenery of Virginia, and hallowed by associations with the memory of the greatest man of modern times.

We have read the Address of President Ruffner with a feeling